CAROLINE,

THE

HEROINE OF THE CAMP.

A NOVEL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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CAROLINE,

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CHAPTER XIII.

ON the arrival of the ſhip in the harbour of Quebec, Courtney went immediately on ſhore; and being introduced to the Governor, preſented letters which the Commander in Chief at New York had given him for that purpoſe. He was moſt politely received; and after

ter

ter having paſſed a conſiderable time in converſation with him, the Governor introduced him to the officers and gentlemen who were preſent. By them he was greatly careſſed: for his open countenance and lively manner always pleaſed and made his company courted.

He remained here a few days; during which he had many conferences with the Governor on the buſineſs for which he had been ſent: and the juſtneſs of his ideas, and the humanity of his heart, was diſco-

diſcovered and greatly applauded by him.

The Britiſh Miniſtry formed the greateſt expectations from the aſſiſtance which the Indian nations might afford to the expedition under General Burgoyne. They knew that in America, where the country was over-run with woods, they would become particularly ſerviceable in ſkirmiſhing and as out ſcouts, and alſo in diſcovering the beſt tracks for conveying the main body of the army; at the ſame time they dreaded their barbarous manner of

carrying on a war, and wiſhed by every influence poſſible to repreſs their ferocity.

To effect this they wiſhed to introduce a few Engliſh officers among them, and prepare them, by as much intimacy as poſſible, to an acquieſcence to their opinions, and to be ſubject to their influence.

One of the braveſt of theſe nations are the Outawas, who had promiſed to come to the aſſiſtance of the King on the other ſide of the

the great waters (meaning the King of England) as ſoon as the army took the field. To this people Captain Courtney was to be ſent, and an officer who had already been among that tribe, and who was then at Montreal preparing for another viſit, was to accompany him.

General Burgoyne as yet was not returned from England; no other ſhip having entered the river ſince the breaking up of the ice but that in which Courtney arrived: the Governor thought it beſt that he ſhould viſit the Outawa nation with all

 ſpeed,

ſpeed, and he accordingly ſet off to Montreal to join the officer whom he was to accompany.

Captain Morton, (which was the name of this officer) received him with great politeneſs and pleaſure. He informed him that it would be yet many days before he ſhould be ready to ſet out, having a variety of goods to take with them as a preſent, which were not prepared.

Courtney heard not this with any particular regret. He therefore took lodgings in the houſe of one of the mer-

merchants, to whom he was recommended by Captain Morton. This officer alſo introduced him to the gentlemen of the army, who were then at Montreal, and who were now full of ſpirits on ſeeing the river open, and preparing with great activity for the enſuing campaign.

In the courſe of a few days Courtney was introduced by his brother officers into the circle of their acquaintance, among whom were the firſt nobleſſe of the place.

Theſe Canadians inherit the ideas of the firſt French ſettlers of that province, who were many of them related to the French nobility; and tenacious of their deſcent, are too proud to marry into families that are not equally honorable.

Madame de Rettelle had juſt performed the laſt funeral offices to a deceaſed huſband, who died the end of the preceding November, but, as is the cuſtom of the people in that province, had been buried only a fortnight; the froſts rendering it impoſſible to break the earth, the bodies

bodies of the dead are kept in an apartment of the houſe till the end of winter.

Monſieur de Rettelle had died extremely rich: he was near fifty at the time he married Mademoiſelle Vandome his preſent widow, and had by will left her a fortune of more than five thouſand pounds a year. She was at this time only twenty eight years of age, having married M. de Rettelle before ſhe was twenty, in conſequence of the great advantage of the match; her father, though one of the nobleſſe, poſſeſſing

poſſeſſing an eſtate of very inferior value.

The reſidence of M. de Rettelle was about two miles from Montreal on the banks of the river; and his lady, young and fond of company, and indulged by her huſband in all her wiſhes, was never without a party at her houſe, among whom generally were ſeveral of the officers quartered in that city.

Although the great diſproportion in their ages rendered it improbable that ſhe ſhould entertain much of

that

that tender affection for her huſband which ſo irreſiſtibly unites the human ſoul in inviolable attachment, yet ſhe treated him with the utmoſt tenderneſs and even ſtudied to render him happy: and notwithſtanding the round of youthful acquaintance with whom ſhe aſſociated, no imputation had ever been caſt on her reputation, excepting by the ill natured and vicious, whoſe animadverſions originated ſolely from the depravity of their own hearts, and the hatred they entertained to the name of virtues which they themſelves poſſeſſed not.

That

That acceſs to her acquaintance was eaſily attained, the more reaſonable and candid confeſſed; and to prevent aſperſions of a like malevolent nature, many families refrained from aſſociating with her, compelled by the whiſpering tongue of wickedneſs apparently to aſſent to an imputation which they believed falſe and unfounded.

But ſuch is the fate of goodneſs and of virtue: incapable of deviating from the path of rectitude, their actions are undiſguiſed and opened to the whole world; while the

the baſe and the wicked, hiding their infamy in ſecrecy and darkneſs, and by hypocritically noticing what they term the imprudent conduct of others, paſs on indiſcriminate obſervers as perſons of immaculate fame.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XIV.

TO Madame de Rettelle Captain Courtney was early introduced. He had heard the hiſtory of her marriage, and was ſurpriſed that ſo young and beautiful a woman could reconcile herſelf to a union ſo contrary to her years.

He ſought ſociety as an antidote to reflections that rendered him unhappy: for his thoughts fled back to

to the ſpot which he had lately quitted—the ſpot which contained the object deareſt to his ſoul! and his heart was depreſſed with apprehenſions for Caroline, and with fears that her family would compel her to a marriage with Lord Belandine.

He was convinced of the prepoſſeſſion of her heart in his own favor; but it would be more gratifying to the ambition of her family that ſhe ſhould marry his Lordſhip, and he dreaded how far they might carry their authority to effect it.

He

He found no where a larger circle than at Madame de Rettelle's, and to rid himſelf of reflections which made him unhappy, he preferred going there. His graceful and manly figure attracted her notice on the firſt viſit; and her partiality encreaſed as he became more known. Sacrificing as ſhe had done the tender ſentiments of her youth to the advice of her father for the purpoſe of aggrandizing her fortune, ſhe now thought it would be an act of juſtice to herſelf to beſtow that fortune on the man who might enjoy her affections. The gentlemen

men of the army appeared to poſſeſs more ſpirit and liberality than moſt of her own countrymen and ſhe determined to make choice of a huſband from among them.

The fortune of Madame de Rettelle was ſufficient to obtain her many ſuitors, independant of her perſonal figure; and more than one officer of very conſiderable rank was among them. But ſhe had determined to form no haſty alliance, and reſerved her final determination till ſhe had more experience of their merits.

Powerfully

Powerfully attractive as was the external figure of Courtney, the accompliſhments of his heart and underſtanding exceeded them: he had a liberal mind, and was free and undiſguiſed in his ſentiments, and he beſides poſſeſſed a ready wit and quickneſs of repartee which infinitely delighted the fair widow.

But there were other motives which prompted her to notice Courtney. Officers of the firſt rank had made her propoſals of marriage; and every young officer who valued himſelf on poſſeſſing a handſome perſon

perſon had done the ſame except him. If therefore he obtained her regard in an equal degree with the reſt, on other accounts, from this conduct he had piqued her vanity and pride; and in conſequence by particularly attending to him, her heart at length gave him a decided preference.

But with reſpect to Courtney a difficulty occurred which would not have ariſen had her preference been fixed elſewhere. He had made no overtures of the kind to her, and it was not in her thoughts that ſhe

ſhould be required firſt to drop hints on the ſubject.

The time however drew near which was fixed for the departure of Captain Morton and Courtney; and the heart of Madame de Rettelle had confirmed her in her choice, without any further proſpect of accompliſhing the deſire ſhe had of becoming his wife. The more inattentive the Captain appeared, the more her heart became inflamed; and ſhe thought it now impoſſible to live without him. The following day he was to take his leave, and

and ſhe might probably ſee him no more: but ſhe determined if poſſible to prevent his departure, and to detain him another week; in the courſe of which ſhe would contrive to make known her ſentiments in his favor.

She at length thought of a plan which would effect the delay, and entruſted the execution of it to a confidential perſon. She knew that he was to accompany Captain Morton in his viſit to the Outawas, and to take with them a number of piſtols and other military articles.

Having by enquiries which ſhe procured to be made found that theſe were depoſited in a ſtore cloſe to the ſide of the river, by a conſiderable bribe ſhe prevailed on the keeper to contrive that the water might enter through a ſmall aperture, and render it neceſſary for every thing to be examined and re-packed.

Accordingly when directions were given to the proper perſons for putting the packages on the cattle which were to convey them, they were diſcovered to have been affected by water, which the ſtorekeeper

ſaid

ſaid came in through an hole made by the rats at the lower part of the building. On examination it was thought neceſſary to unpack every thing, for fear of any part being damaged; as the Indian nation to whom they were to be ſent, might, if they found them in an injured ſtate, not haſten their aſſiſtance ſo readily; they being very covetous after ſuch articles, and induced to undertake the war by theſe gratifications.

CHAPTER XV.

THE two officers were under great concern at the accident which had ariſen to the preſents which were to have been ſent with them, for they were convinced that the ſervice would be prejudiced by the delay it occaſioned; and beſides it was poſſible that blame might be attributed to them. However they exerted themſelves in having them examined,

examined, that as little time as poſſible might be loſt.

Madame de Rettelle in the mean time reflected on the moſt proper meaſures to be purſued for making Courtney acquainted with the partiality of her ſentiments towards him. She had contrived to be informed of every particular reſpecting his fortune and family, and from the ſituation of the former, more ſtrongly aſſured herſelf that he would embrace the means of re-eſtabliſhing himſelf in opulence.

After various plans, which ſhe repeatedly changed, ſhe at length reſolved on ſtating her ſentiments to him by letter. She accordingly wrote to him the ſame day the following.

" Sir,

" You will perhaps not entertain " a prejudice in my favor when in " reading this you diſcover that I " have ſtepped beyond the rules " of decorum preſcribed to my " ſex. But I truſt it will meet " with ſome apology when you re-

" flect

" flect that a few days more will
" take you from hence for ever.
" I have diſcovered, during the
" time you have done me the
" honor to viſit at my houſe, that
" you poſſeſs a ſenſibility and prin-
" ciples that muſt render the wo-
" man happy whom you ſhall ho-
" nor as your wife. I entreat that
" you will to-morrow favor me with
" your company to dinner, and that
" you will come alone; when, Sir,
" I ſhall offer to your notice five
" thouſand pounds a year, and the
" hand and heart of

A. DE RETTELLE."

It

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the ſurpriſe of Courtney on reading this letter. He could ſcarcely believe himſelf awake; and even then thought it could not be intended for him. However after looking it over again and again he was ſatisfied of its reality: he then ſuſpected that the lady meant to be witty at his expence, and to make him the inſtrument of her ridicule; but on reflection he could not believe that ſhe would ſend a letter with her name ſigned for ſuch a purpoſe; beſides that it was a freedom he could

could not poſſibly ſuppoſe ſhe would ſlightly indulge herſelf in.

Having perſuaded himſelf that the lady had made him a ſerious propoſal of marriage, he debated whether he ſhould pay the leaſt attention to the ſubject of her letter. With reſpect to embracing the offer of her hand, it required not a moment's conſideration to determine him: his heart was pre-engaged, and no fortune, however great, could poſſibly draw him to think of an union with any woman but the object of his affections.

But

But as Madame de Rettelle had on all occaſions treated him with great civility, he thought himſelf bound in honor to wait on her at the time ſhe had appointed. Peculiar as her letter appeared, it was no more than a candid and free confeſſion of an honorable paſſion, and he ſhould not behave to her with equal candour if he went not to the appointment, even although he relinquiſhed her offer.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XVI.

THUS determined, he the next day waited on her at the time appointed, and found her alone.

As ſoon as he was ſeated, ſhe addreſſed him on the ſubject of the letter. She truſted, ſhe ſaid, that he would not attribute to her a too free manner of behaviour from ſuch a circumſtance. The partial affection which ſhe entertained for him, it

it would now be prudery to deny. The knowledge that he was to quit Montreal in the courſe of a few days, and the poſſibility that ſhe might never ſee him more, had urged her to the ſtep ſhe had taken; beſides that the number of ſuitors which her large fortune brought round her, induced her the more readily to do ſo to relieve herſelf from their importunities.

Courtney replied that he was overwhelmed with ſenſibility at the partial preference ſhe had done him the honor to make, and that no words could

could expreſs the great reſpect he entertained for her: the openneſs of her conduct towards him, he ſaid, required that he ſhould be equally candid in what he ſaid; he therefore could but own that his heart had been long attached to a moſt worthy woman, with whom alone he could ever think of being united.

The face of Madame de Rettelle changed colour as he delivered theſe words. She had herſelf never experienced the full power of the tender affections till now, and ſhe felt it as the ſtroke of death. In her

own

own perſon ſhe had renounced all attention to the refinements of love in marrying M. de Rettelle, and ſhe conceived it impoſſible that an offer of five thouſand pounds a year with the hand of a handſome woman could have been ſlighted or refuſed by any man.

Mortified as ſhe was, ſhe ſtrove to prevent Courtney's obſerving it, being deſirous to be made acquainted with the name and abode of her rival. After uſing her ſalts, and drinking a glaſs of wine to renew her ſpirits, ſhe again recovered ſtrength enough

enough to ſpeak, and lamenting how unfortunate ſhe had been in laying open to him the weakneſs of her heart, ſhe ſaid that the lady who had won his affections poſſeſſed a jewel of ineſtimable price; and deſired that he would gratify her ſo far as to tell her in what part of the globe ſhe reſided.

Courtney ſaw not any great impropriety in his anſwering this queſtion, and replied at New York.

" And what may be her name?"

" That, Madam, would be rather preſumptuous in me to mention: for although I am convinced that I poſſeſs the affections of the idol of my heart, I have particular reaſons for not mentioning her name."

" After the undiſguiſed manner in which I have declared myſelf to you, Captain," replied Madame de Rettelle, " the mention of her name would be but a reciprocal confidence. However I wiſh not now to impoſe a requeſt on you which you may be unwilling to gratify me in, we will therefore ſay no more

more on the ſubject. Dinner is by this time ready, and although it is with difficulty that I can ſupport my ſpirits, yet I will ſtrive to do ſo for the remainder of the day.

He ſupported her with his arm as they walked, and they dined together. Madame de Rettelle afterwards gradually recovered a portion of her accuſtomed vivacity, and by indirect queſtions ſought to obtain the name of the happy lady who rivalled her in the affections of Courtney.

He was however as cautious not to mention it, and as often threw the converſation on other ſubjects.

At length he roſe to take his leave.—" And will you then reſign me," ſaid ſhe, " to hopeleſs deſpair? to the ſhame of having overſtepped the bounds of female decorum in behalf of a man who returns the ardour of my paſſion with neglect and indifference."

" Madam," replied Courtney, " this cutting reproach I do not deſerve. Would you have me do a violence

a violence to my feelings that I could not ſupport, and practiſe a deceit diſhonorable to myſelf and unwarranted by your candid behaviour to me?"

"I know not," ſaid ſhe, "but that I could prefer exiſting under that deceit, to the neceſſity you have driven me to of pining in deſpair. However go—and wherever you are may happineſs attend you!"

He now took his leave and inſtantly returned home, where with

great pleaſure he heard that they were to ſet out on their journey the following day.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XVII.

LORD Belandine, on being made acquainted with the departure of Courtney from New York, came on ſhore; and went to the houſe of Colonel Fitzjames. His lady was greatly rejoiced on ſeeing him, and now became more eaſy than ſhe had been during the two laſt days that Courtney had remained among them.

She had reflected on the beſt means of promoting the marriage of Lord Belandine with her ſiſter; and ſhe thought it moſt prudent to refrain from urging the ſuit of his Lordſhip for a week or two, when the idea of Courtney might be leſs ſtrong on her imagination; and ſhe accordingly requeſted him to avoid entering into particular converſation with her for the preſent.

She found it was neceſſary however, from the queſtions which his Lordſhip put to her, to partly acknowledge her belief of the influence

ence which Courtney had on the heart of her ſiſter, which ſhe attributed to what ſhe called his artful conduct, and the ungenerous advantage which ſhe ſaid he had taken of the intimacy between himſelf and her family.

Lord Belandine liſtened to her with great attention, and expreſſed his indignation at the conduct of the Captain. He repeated to Mrs. Fitzjames profeſſions of the warmeſt attachment to Caroline, and beſought her to befriend him with her influence.

Having

Having adjuſted between them the conduct neceſſary for his Lordſhip to purſue, he took his leave for the day; and for a fortnight after went but ſeldom to the Colonel's, and then only ſtaid a ſhort time.

In the interim, that he might haſten the completion of his wiſhes, and obtain the hand of the fair object of his purſuit before Courtney could poſſibly return, he wrote himſelf to Lord Thornton on the ſubject, deſiring him to haſten with the utmoſt ſpeed an anſwer, on which hung the fulfilment of his warmeſt deſires.

deſires. Mrs. Fitzjames accompanied this with a letter of her own, wherein ſhe informed his Lordſhip of the reaſons which made it neceſſary that the marriage ſhould be concluded with all poſſible diſpatch.

In the viſits which Lord Belandine made at the Colonel's, he gradually encreaſed his attention to Caroline, who however in her behaviour to him gave him no great encouragement to hope that he would obtain much of her eſteem. The ſight of his Lordſhip was to her a ſource of uneaſineſs and ſorrow; for it

it did not appear that any great obſtacle would have interfered to prevent Courtney from making overtures of the ſame nature, or to occaſion any objections on the part of her family, but for the ſuperiority of his Lordſhip's rank and fortune.

She was not acquainted with the very embarraſſed ſtate of Courtney's affairs, which rendered it abſolutely impoſſible for him to ſupport her as his wife even in private life: for his income was not equal to the preſent wants of his father and himſelf, and although there were expectations of great ſums on the death

death of perſons to whom Courtney was nearly related, yet that time might be very diſtant, and he might even be deceived in what he expected.

This was the great cauſe why Courtney had reſtrained his tongue from ever uttering even a wiſh to any one on the ſubject, and the declaration of his paſſion had never paſſed his lips untill the morning when the Colonel left them to themſelves, and which was the laſt day that he had ſeen her.

Three

Three months had elapſed ſince Mrs. Fitzjames had ſent the firſt letter ſhe had written to Lord Thornton on the ſubject of Lord Belandine's overtures, and every ſhip that now came in from England was expected to bring an anſwer from thence. Theſe letters at length arrived, wherein his Lordſhip expreſſed his great approbation of the match, and his willingneſs to have it concluded as early as the parties choſe. His Lordſhip alſo incloſed an engagement to pay Caroline five thouſand pounds on the day of marriage.

Thus

Thus prepared, Mrs. Fitzjames, with as much circumſpection as poſſible made known to Caroline the wiſhes of her father that a union ſhould take place between Lord Belandine and herſelf. Had an inſtrument of deſtruction been held to her breaſt by a bloody aſſaſſin, and only a few moments given her to prepare for diſſolution, it could not have ſhocked her more than the information theſe letters conveyed. She dreaded the trial ſhe had to go through, and offered up her prayers to heaven to ſupport her in her reſolution of living for Courtney alone.

She

She made but few anſwers to what Mrs. Fitzjames added—of the happineſs ſhe muſt certainly feel in poſſeſſing the regard of a man of Lord Belandine's merit, but permitted her uninterrupted to conclude all ſhe had to ſay in his behalf.

Caroline then beſought her ſiſter to liſten to her with attention and calmneſs. In every thing elſe, ſhe ſaid, their affections were undivided; and the individual happineſs of each other had been always their mutual joy: but that in the inſtance of ſeeking to promote a union be-

tween

tween her and Lord Belandine, ſhe had ſhut up the tender ſympathy of her heart. She ſaid that ſhe had before declared to her how diſtant it would be from happineſs to herſelf to meet Lord Belandine on the footing of a lover: her reſolution was ſtill the ſame, and ſhe hoped ſhe ſaid that her ſiſter was incapable of ſtriving further to make her wretched.

To this Mrs. Fitzjames replied, that ſhe was convinced that ſhe was acting the part of a ſiſter and a friend in ſtriving to promote her marriage with Lord Belandine, that

had ſhe not thought ſo ſhe would have never for a ſingle moment ſtrove to urge her to accede to his wiſhes; that in a caſe of the preſent nature, young women ſometimes judged falſely on what would render them happy; and from ſuch conſiderations as theſe, ſhe ſaid ſhe could not but ſtill deſire her to be guided by the judgment and wiſhes of her beſt and moſt certain friends.

Caroline, more agitated than ever, called upon her ſiſter, with eyes full of tears, to relinquiſh the attempt of ſtriving to compel her to what ſhe never

never would conſent to!—" His Lordſhip," exclaimed ſhe, " has been long ago acquainted with my ſentiments; and to ſtrive to induce me by gaining you to aſſiſt him in perſecuting me renders him only deteſtable to me, and I will give up my life ere I conſent to your wiſhes!"

Having ſaid this ſhe flew to her chamber, and left her ſiſter to meditate on what ſhe had heard.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE decided preference which Courtney obtained in the heart of Madame de Rettelle, was quickly diſcovered by the other gentlemen who were her conſtant viſitors. She could not drive him from her thoughts, and his praiſes were often on her tongue. There were among them ſome officers who had been with the camp at New York, and of them ſhe made enquiries reſpecting Court-

ney, and of the object of his love; but they knew not, they ſaid, of any avowed attachment which he had there; and that although Miſs Thornton was ſpoken of as being often viſited, yet that they attributed this to the very great friendſhip which ſubſiſted between him and Colonel Fitzjames, her brother in law, at whoſe houſe ſhe reſided.

This was ſufficient for Madame de Rettelle; and her next wiſhes were to be made acquainted of what family this Miſs Thornton came, her age, and perſonal accompliſh-

ments. The information ſhe received in theſe particulars was not flattering to her hopes that ſhe might be able to draw his heart from the prepoſſeſſion it had imbibed. Fortunately however for her, an officer, of whom ſhe was one day making enquiry reſpecting this rival, and whoſe intimacy was very great with Lord Belandine, with whom he correſponded, ſaid that he had not the honor of being acquainted with that lady, but that a very intimate friend of his (mentioning his Lordſhip's name) had deſcribed her as a beautiful woman, and whom he wiſhed

to

to make his wife; but that having found her affections pre-engaged, he had been obliged to keep his paſſion ſecret, becauſe he was attempting the removal of his rival from New York; when by the influence of her friends, who all ſupported his pretenſions, he doubted not of accompliſhing his wiſhes.

This again revived the hopes of the fair widow. She penetrated into the cauſe of Courtney's having been ſelected to go among the Outawa Indians, and was confirmed in the truth of what ſhe ſuſpected before—

that Courtney was the favored lover of Miſs Thornton.

On taking leave at his departure from Montreal, ſhe had deſpaired of ever ſeeing him again, or at leaſt of the poſſibility of engaging his affections; but now ſhe thought there was the greateſt probability, when on his return he ſhould find the object of his love married to another (which ſhe perſuaded herſelf would be the caſe) that he would rejoice to embrace the offer ſhe had made him of her hand and fortune.

Madame de Rettelle now gave a final refuſal to the overtures of her ſeveral lovers. Concluding that ſhe had fixed in her choice, they refrained from ſpeaking to her on the ſubject for ſome time; but from not obſerving a preference to any one, they ſoon renewed their ſolicitations, which now became extremely diſagreeable and troubleſome to her; and ſhe often ſecluded herſelf in her chamber to be relieved from their importunities.

Her conduct at length convinced them that her choice had fallen on

ſome

ſome perſon who at that time was not among them; and one of the officers who to carry his point now made court alſo to the waiting woman, was ſoon acquainted with the ſituation of her miſtreſs's heart.

It was now no ſecret among them that Courtney had the preference of the widow; and as this was for ſome days a topic of converſation, it became univerſally known. As ſuch anecdotes as theſe are generally related in epiſtolary communications, it was ſoon known

at

at New York, and none had the account earlier than Lord Belandine.

Nothing could be more gratifying to his Lordſhip or coincide better with the object he had in view. He reſolved to take the firſt opportunity of reading it at the Colonel's, convinced that it muſt greatly promote his views with reſpect to Caroline.

Caroline had obtained more quiet ſince the day in which ſhe had ſo reſolutely anſwered her ſiſter when ſhe was urged by her to admit the addreſſes

addreſſes of his Lordſhip. Mrs. Fitzjames finding more difficulty than ſhe at firſt expected, awaited the return of anſwers to the laſt letters ſhe and Lord Belandine had written to Lord Thornton. From theſe ſhe expected her father would approve of a propoſal ſhe made of prevailing on the Chaplain of one of the regiments to marry them even in ſpite of all the objections of her ſiſter. To procure his acquieſcence to this ſcheme, ſhe informed his Lordſhip that Caroline was influenced to oppoſe this union by a young ſoldier of ſtraitened circumſtances,

ſtances, and that to effect her marriage with Lord Belandine, in addition to its being a match honorable and advantageous, would be the means of ſecuring her from the further artifices of the officer, and preſerve her from beggary and diſgrace.

But although Caroline was not now teized by her ſiſter on the ſubject, her mind was oppreſſed with the moſt diſtracting ideas. The departure of Courtney was a circumſtance that gave her great pain; but the anxiety which ſhe ſuffered

on

on that account bore no comparison with the anguish and terror that seized her when she considered the place to which he was sent, where accidents might happen and evils arise without the means of preventing or alleviating them, and from whence information could be seldom obtained of his existence or safety. She lamented that he should be selected on such an occasion; and she in secret poured forth her prayers to heaven to defend and protect him.

Colonel

Colonel Fitzjames had received only two letters from him ſince his departure: one was written immediately on his landing at Quebec, and the other a few days before he quitted Montreal. In them he appeared to be full of ſpirits, and to have no kind of apprehenſion of thoſe hazards and dangers which ſo agitated the boſom of the fair partner of his hopes.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XIX.

THE advantage which Lord Belandine took in his viſits at Colonel Fitzjames's of urging his paſſion to Caroline whenever the leaſt opportunity occurred, occaſioned her to abſent herſelf from table as often as poſſible when ſhe knew that his Lordſhip was to be of the party. He therefore was twice diſappointed of ſeeing her when he went for the expreſs purpoſe of relating the con-

tents

tents of the letter which he received from Quebec; and conceiving it would have the ſame uſeful effect if mentioned by others, he related it without delay to the Colonel and his lady.

" I have juſt heard from Canada," ſaid he; " and among other things I have ſome information reſpecting Captain Courtney."

" Aye," replied Colonel Fitzjames, with eagerneſs; " pray what is it?"

" A matrimonial adventure. The Captain has won the heart of one of the richeſt ladies in Montreal."

At theſe words the eyes of Mrs. Fitzjames were fixed with earneſtneſs on his Lordſhip. She knew not how to underſtand what he was ſaying, as ſhe could not believe that he was relating a real truth, and conſidered him as playing off a manœuvre to ſerve the intereſt of his paſſion for Caroline.

" Indeed, Madam," ſaid he, " however it may ſurpriſe you,

Lieutenant

Lieutenant Beckton, an intimate friend of mine, who is now at Montreal, among other anecdotes relates that Captain Courtney has won the heart of a young widow of five thouſand a year."

" Pray," ſaid Colonel Fitzjames, " does Lieutenant Beckton mention the name of the lady? I am ſo much intereſted in the happineſs of that deſerving young man that I will thank your Lordſhip to relate particularly what your friend has ſaid."

" The name of the lady is de Rettelle, the widow of one of the French nobleſſe. In conſequence of the extent of her fortune ſhe had a number of ſuitors, among whom were ſeveral officers. She however gave the preference to Captain Courtney, who could not then wait to enjoy the fruits of his victory, being under orders to go inſtantly to the Outawa nation of Indians. The lady however has diſcarded all her other lovers, and waits anxiouſly the return of Courtney, when the marriage is immediately to take place.

This

This was a ſtroke of good fortune Mrs. Fitzjames had not expected, and ſhe rejoiced at the probable influence it would have on the heart of her ſiſter. She at firſt reſolved to ſend to her, and deſire to ſpeak with her inſtantly; but on reflection ſhe thought it would have a better effect if related to her by the Colonel, which ſhe was ſure he would do as ſoon as he ſhould ſee her.

Colonel Fitzjames was as much rejoiced as either at his friend's good fortune. He remained ignorant of

the prior attachment of Courtney, and of the power he had over the heart of Caroline. Of the overtures of Lord Belandine he was not unacquainted, nor in ſome degree of Caroline's objections to his Lordſhip as a lover, but as the parties were not mutual in their wiſhes, he never joined in the ſchemes of his wife to promote the match, but left her to adopt whatever meaſures ſhe thought proper, conceiving her incapable of purſuing means prejudicial to the happineſs of her ſiſter; and he himſelf ſaw no reaſonable objection againſt his Lordſhip, whom he

he thought every way deſerving, and indeed ſuperior in rank and fortune to what Caroline might expect.

He felt ſo much happineſs at the account Lord Belandine had given of Madame de Rettelle, that he could not reſtrain his emotion, and he declared he would inſtantly go and acquaint Caroline with the particulars, as he was ſatisfied ſhe would participate their joy.

On his quitting the room, Mrs. Fitzjames and his Lordſhip con-

gratulated themſelves on the happy riddance they had obtained of the viſits of Courtney, and in particular of the good conſequences that muſt reſult from the information which the Colonel was then gone to lay before Caroline.

"But I fear," ſaid Mrs. Fitzjames, "the news is too good to be true. Have you really had letters from Quebec on the ſubject?"

"Yes," replied Lord Belandine, "and the whole of what I have related before the Colonel is true, according

according to the letter of my friend; however it is a matter I am ſo much concerned in that I ſhall write by the firſt ſhip to enquire more particulars. It was for ſome days the general converſation of Montreal, and no doubt will be noticed by other officers to their acquaintance."

"Well, if it be ſo," ſaid Mrs. Fitzjames, "it is the moſt fortunate circumſtance that could have happened to promote your ſuit with Caroline. I really am provoked with the girl for thinking in the leaſt

of

of that fellow; but you may perceive by his conduct with the lady at Montreal that he is very artful and intereſted."

Their converſation ran into conſiderable length on this ſubject, and it was agreed before his Lordſhip and Mrs. Fitzjames parted to leave Caroline to her own reflections for a few days as moſt ſerviceable to their ſchemes.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XX.

COLONEL Fitzjames, on leaving the room, went towards Caroline's apartment, and inſtantly acquainted her with what he had heard reſpecting Courtney, concluding with expreſſions of the utmoſt joy at the circumſtance.

He related this with ſuch quickneſs of expreſſion, and in ſuch few words, that he could not well obſerve

obſerve the changes which the information wrought in her face. Her whole frame trembled while ſhe liſtened, and ſhe could ſcarcely perſuade herſelf that ſhe comprehended what he ſaid. Satisfied however at length that ſhe heard diſtinctly, the little ſpirit which remained fled, and ſhe ſunk, pale and almoſt lifeleſs, into a chair.

The Colonel now firſt perceived her ſituation, and haſtily exclaimed —" What is the matter, Caroline? Why look you pale and faint? has the information I have given you of

of the probability that my friend Courtney will eſtabliſh himſelf in opulence by marriage with a young Canadian widow of great property occaſioned this?"

Caroline exclaimed—" oh heavens!" and her head ſunk on her boſom.

The Colonel now felt the moſt poignant diſtreſs. He rang the bell, and one of the ſervants inſtantly coming and ſeeing the ſituation of her young miſtreſs, aſſiſted to recover her. He now for the firſt time

ſaw

ſaw the predilection of her heart, and was himſelf influenced by variety of ſenſations and confuſed ideas. His concern however for her immediate health ſuppreſſed his reflections, and he ſought by the utmoſt tenderneſs of expreſſion and behaviour to reſtore her to tranquillity of mind, and to revive her ſpirits.

He then left her, and retired to his ſtudy. Here he reflected on the diſcovery he had made of the paſſion of Caroline for his friend, and he now ſaw into the motives of his wife for the coldneſs of her behaviour

viour to Courtney, which he had in ſome inſtances remarked during the latter part of the time his friend remained at New York, but without ſuſpecting the cauſe, and which indeed the alteration in her conduct towards him for the few days before he left them, had totally obliterated.

Convinced as he now was that Caroline had conceived a ſtrong paſſion for Courtney, he yet remained ignorant whether his heart poſſeſſed a reciprocal ſentiment. If he credited the account he had juſt heard from

from Lord Belandine, Courtney could not be ſuppoſed to have entertained a ſtrong partiality for any woman, prior to his viſiting Canada; as he did not believe that he would act ſo repugnant to his feelings in that caſe, as to ſeek the hand of another, although ſhe might be poſſeſſed of a fortune great as that which belonged to Madame de Rettelle.

It was poſſible that this might be a manœuvre of his Lordſhip's to accompliſh his deſigns with Caroline; and in that caſe he ſhould the leſs deſire to ſee the match concluded;

and

and if the attachment between Courtney and his ſiſter in law was reciprocal, and which he conceived to be very probable from a great conformity of diſpoſition and ſentiment between them, he then thought it would be an act of duty to them both, to prevent the practice of artifice and deception on the part of his Lordſhip, which muſt be deſtructive of happineſs to all the parties whom it involved.

He remembered that his Lordſhip ſaid that this intended marriage of Courtney and Madame de Rettelle

was the general topic of converſation at Montreal, and conſequently would be mentioned by moſt of the officers who ſent letters from thence; he reſolved therefore to ſeek further information on the ſubject before he determined on what line of conduct to purſue.

Lord Belandine in the mean time had contrived that the propagation of this report ſhould be as univerſal as poſſible, and with all the circumſtances he had deſcribed in the preſence of the Colonel; and ſuch is the influence of prepoſſeſſion on

on a ſubject, that ſeveral other officers, who had alſo received letters from their friends in Canada, wherein this anecdote was ſpoken of, declared they mentioned exactly the ſame: when the Colonel therefore made enquiries of ſome of them, they related in as preciſe and full a manner the abſolute engagement which Courtney had made to return to Canada and to marry Madame de Rettelle.

Satisfied as he now was that however the heart of Caroline was prepoſſeſſed in favor of Courtney, his

friend was not influenced by the ſame ſentiments towards her, he readily determined to join his entreaties to thoſe of his wife to effect her marriage with Lord Belandine, conceiving it to be the moſt ready way of taking off her thoughts from Courtney, whoſe union with the Canadian widow would he ſuppoſed ſhortly take place, and only encreaſe her diſtreſs.

He had hitherto ſaid but very little on the ſubject of his Lordſhip's overtures to Mrs. Fitzjames, obſerving that Caroline appeared

peared to diſlike them; but now he entered into particular converſation with her on the means of promoting his Lordſhip's ſuit. He adviſed her to treat her ſiſter with the utmoſt tenderneſs, and to uſe no means that had the appearance of being compulſory to effect it: he ſaid that he ſuſpected her heart had formed an engagement elſewhere, which could not be ſucceſsful, and that therefore it would be the more neceſſary to practiſe the moſt tender endearments to draw off her thoughts from the object.

Mrs. Fitzjames felt inexpreſſible pleaſure at this declaration of her huſband. She told him ſhe had apprehended that he rather wiſhed to promote the intereſt of his acquaintance, Captain Courtney, although he had generouſly refrained from interfering in his behalf.

To this the Colonel replied that he had ſo little noticed either his friend or Caroline during the viſits of the former at his houſe that he had been ignorant of her entertaining any paſſion for him till the day on which Lord Belandine had related

related the engagement which Courtney had entered into with Madame de Rettelle; when on his mentioning it to Caroline ſhe became ſo affected as to ſuddenly ſtrike him with an idea of the paſſion ſhe entertained for him.

On finding how little her huſband ſuſpected the mutual attachment of her ſiſter and Courtney, Mrs. Fitzjames thought it prudent to ſay as few words as poſſible reſpecting it; and they now proceeded to conſult together on what line of conduct to purſue for expediting

the union of Caroline and his Lordſhip.

The Colonel thought that ſhe had better return to England; where fewer opportunities would occur of hearing of Courtney, and where no walks or ſcenes would revive the idea of him in her mind. He ſaid that he would undertake himſelf, before ſhe went, to repreſent to her the folly of permitting her thoughts to dwell on a man who was on the point of being married to another, and would ſtrive to prevail on her to admit Lord Belan-

Belandine to accompany her to England, and to receive him as her future huſband.

This was all ſo conformable to her wiſhes that ſhe inſtantly coincided with him in the propriety of the meaſure, and deſired the Colonel to ſpeak to her on the ſubject immediately.

He accordingly ſent for Caroline into his ſtudy the next day, and after telling her of his having diſcovered the paſſion ſhe entertained for Courtney, repreſented the futility

of

of indulging in it now that he was engaged to Madame de Rettelle; and related to her the various enquiries he had made reſpecting it and the confirmations he had received; he then repreſented to her the propriety of her conforming to the wiſhes of her family in marrying Lord Belandine, and beſought her to exert her reſolution on the occaſion.

Her eyes were filled with tears as ſhe liſtened to the Colonel; and when he ſtopped to receive her

her anſwer, ſhe could only take his hand and kiſs it.

Obſerving her much agitated, he continued—" You know, my dear Caroline, that I would not offer to interpoſe in this affair was I not convinced that your future happineſs depends on your conduct at this time. My friend Courtney has but a ſmall fortune, and you cannot doubt of his readineſs to embrace the opportunity that has offered of conſiderably encreaſing it. Of the certainty of his having made his addreſſes to Madame de Rettelle,

I am

I am convinced from my enquiries of different officers who have received letters from Canada; and therefore you have beſtowed your affection on a young man, who, although I know him to be very worthy, and who cannot but eſteem you, yet poſſeſſes not ſentiments of equal ardor towards you as thoſe you bear to him: it therefore becomes a matter of duty and prudence in all your friends to draw your attention to other objects. For this purpoſe I wiſh you to return to England; and I perſuade myſelf

ſelf that you will comply with my requeſt, and that you will permit Lord Belandine to accompany you if an order can be obtained for his return."

Caroline liſtened to this diſcourſe in ſilent ſadneſs: but when he propoſed Lord Belandine's accompanying her, ſhe became again much agitated; and to calm her, the Colonel ſaid it ſhould remain with herſelf in what company ſhe went.

Having thus far prepared her for her

her departure, the Colonel left her, and went to relate to his wife the ſucceſs of his endeavours.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XXI.

CAPTAIN Courtney all this while remained ignorant of the meaſures which were purſuing ſo deſtructive to his happineſs and future hopes. On his arrival in company with Captain Morton at the Outawa nation, they diſtributed the preſents among the Chiefs; and obtained by that means a very great influence among them; and having ſome time after received information that

General

General Burgoyne and his army were arrived at St. John's near the borders of Lake Champlain, they marched with their Indian friends and joined the Britiſh army while encamped on the ſide of the river Bouquet on the borders of the Lake.

Here the two Engliſh officers immediately waited on the General, and afterwards introduced to him the Chiefs of the Indian nation.

Before the breaking up of the camp at this place, General Burgoyne addreſſed himſelf to the armies

mies of the Indians; he thanked them for readily ſupporting the cauſe of the great King, their common father, who reſided acroſs the great waters, and requeſted them to conſider that although the country into which they were now going was over-run by men who had renounced their duty unto him the Great King, that yet there remained among them many, who would (if not prevented by the violence of thoſe who had renounced their allegiance) rejoice to join them; that therefore they were bound to give them protection. He then beſought

them to be guided by the Engliſh officers in the attacks which they made, who would be able to diſcriminate between thoſe who renounced their allegiance, and thoſe who yet deſerved the protection of their King and of their countrymen. He poſitively forbid them to ſhed blood when they were not oppoſed in arms, and told them that aged men, women, children, and priſoners, muſt be held ſacred from the knife or hatchet, even in the time of actual conflict. In ſhort by every argument he could uſe, and every inducement he could offer,

offer, he ſtrove to impreſs them with an opinion of the neceſſity there was to be directed by the officers who were ſent by the Great King, their common father, and who otherwiſe wiſhed not for their aſſiſtance.

When the General had finiſhed his ſpeech, they all of them cried out etow! etow! etow! ſignifying in their language approbation; and after remaining ſome little time in conſultation, an old Chief roſe up, and in the name of all the Indian nation preſent aſſured the General that they rejoiced to be called forth

in the ſervice of their great father who reſided beyond the great lake; that with one common conſent they promiſed obedience to his orders; and that in proof of their ſincerity whole villages able to go to war were come forth to fight under his Chiefs and againſt his enemies.

Having thus endeavoured to impreſs on them ſentiments congenial to the humanity of his own heart, and to the method of waging war in civilized countries, he diſmiſſed them, in great confidence of rendering them uſeful to the ſervice.

The

The General now ſent for the Britiſh officers and others who poſſeſſed an influence among the Indians, and gave them ſtrict charge to prevent them from exerciſing any acts of cruelty during the conteſts which would enſue; and Courtney felt great ſatisfaction in the poſt aſſigned him, while ſo ſtrictly required to ſupport the war with the humanity of the European nations.

The Britiſh army ſailed over Lake Champlain without being interrupted by the Americans, and the Indians croſſed it in their canoes, and the

whole body landed at Crown Point, the ſouthernmoſt part of the lake.

They were now within a ſhort diſtance of the enemy, and continual ſkirmiſhes enſued. The Indians were particularly uſeful in theſe, and the party who were under the direction of Captain Courtney behaved to the ſatisfaction of their Commander. The enemy having abandoned Ticonderoga, the army preſſed forwards, and various engagements enſued with the advance guard and part of the Americans.

In

In one of theſe engagements Courtney headed a party of Indians who were directed to attempt driving the Americans from an eminence they occupied, from whence they conſiderably annoyed our troops. They were obliged to make a circuitous march through a wood in order to prevent their approach being obſerved, and having nearly reached the ſpot, the foremoſt of the Indians too haſtily flew to the attack before the whole party were prepared. Courtney however waited not a moment, and inſtantly joined them; but the Americans having by

their ſhouting, notice of their coming, repelled them in ſeveral onſets and they gave ground; Courtney however grew more determined, and with his own arm ſlew five of the enemy, and was on the point of being entirely ſurrounded, when one of the Chiefs who had fallen back with ſome of his party, ſeeing his ſituation, called on his countrymen to ſupport their white friend. Courtney had gained their affections while in their own country, and the Chief who had called on them inſtantly advancing to his aſſiſtance, his companions followed him

him with ſuch impetuoſity that they ſoon drove the enemy from the poſt. In the conteſt however he received a wound in his ſide from a bayonet, and had his right arm broke by a ball from a rifle gun at the laſt onſet; he began to grow faint through loſs of blood, and was no longer able to ſupport himſelf. The Indians became enraged at this, and it was only by exertions which weakened him ſtill more that he prevailed on them to refrain from exerciſing their revenge on the wounded Americans who lay in the field.

They

They conveyed him almoſt life-leſs through loſs of blood to the place where the ſurgeons attended, who immediately dreſſed his wound; his arm however was ſo much ſwelled that it was ſome hours before they could ſet it, and he was conveyed to a tent in the rear with great care and tenderneſs by ſome of the Indians. Here he remained ſeveral days under a ſevere fever, ariſing from the pain of his arm, and it was ſome time before his ſurgeon declared him out of danger.

Having

Having been rendered incapable of actual ſervice for a conſiderable time to come, with regret he was compelled to remain only a ſpectator of the proceedings of the army; and the General having noticed this, deſired him to take charge of ſome diſpatches for General Carlton and to return to Canada, for the purpoſe of directing the quick conveyance of proviſions.

To the intrepid ſpirit of Courtney this was a ſource of regret; his ſoul was fired with military ardour, and on the opening of the campaign

campaign he rejoiced that he had not been confined to the calm manœuvres of the army at New York: in obedience however to the commands of his General, after taking leave of the Chiefs of the Indian nation with whom he had been appointed to act, and who united in profeſſions of the moſt friendly regard to himſelf, and aſſurances of paying due obedience to the regulations they had been required to obſerve, he quitted the army, and ſet out on his return.

He

He croſſed Lake Champlain and arrived ſafe at fort at St. John's; from whence he ſet out for Montreal, and ſtopping juſt to enquire if any letters were received for him at the houſe of the merchant with whom he lodged, he ſet off poſt for Quebec.

He waited not at Montreal to read the letters which were put into his hands, two of which were from his father and one from Colonel Fitzjames who had forwarded thoſe of Sir Harry Courtney. He opened one of the former, and in the

the courſe of reading it came to the following paragraph.

" My couſin, Lady Harriet So-
" berton, to whom, in conſequence
" of the death of her two children,
" who fell martyrs to a putrid fe-
" ver, I am as nearly related as
" any family now living, died laſt
" week through grief for her loſs,
" and has by will left me ſole
" heir to her large eſtates, after
" paying about fourteen thouſand
" pounds in other legacies. This,
" my dear Harry," continued the worthy

worthy Baronet, " at once enables " me to relieve my own eſtates " from the incumbrances which I " was obliged to lay on them; for " ſhe has left upwards of fifty " thouſand pounds in ready mo- " ney, independent of other pro- " perty to the amount of eleven " thouſand a year."

This was a ſtroke of good fortune that ſtaggered Courtney. He read it over again with ſilent aſtoniſhment, and at laſt burſt forth into exclamations of joy. The

pleaſure

pleaſure which he felt aroſe not merely from the idea of poſſeſſing ſo much wealth, but from the opportunity it gave him of ſoliciting the hand of the adored Caroline, without whom no fortune could make him happy.

He now gave way to the indulgence of his paſſion, which he had hitherto ſtrove, though vainly, to overcome. He prayed to heaven to protect her, and to grant that a ſhort time might convey him to the ſpot which held his deareſt hopes. During the time he had been with the

the Outawa nation the idea of Caroline had often made him unhappy. To believe that ſhe would live to bleſs him with her hand, and yet to ſee no proſpect of ever poſſeſſing a fortune by which he could maintain her as his wife, were ſources of ſuch ſevere alternate joy and ſorrow, as almoſt at times drove him to diſtraction. Hope, the univerſal comforter, ſupported him however with diſtant views of happineſs, and calmed the torments of his mind; and although he conceived not the poſſible means he flattered himſelf the day would

come that ſhould bleſs him in a union with the object of his ſolicitude.

His mind dwelt a long time on theſe ſubjects; but at length he opened the letter from Colonel Fitzjames. He was therein congratulated on the engagement which he had formed with Madame de Rettelle, which the Colonel ſaid gave them infinite pleaſure to hear, although he himſelf had thought proper not to notice it in the letter he had written. He ſaid that the report of the lady's partiality was ſo well authenticated

at

at New York that no doubt could be entertained of his ſucceſs, and he rejoiced in the opportunity it gave him of re-eſtabliſhing himſelf in opulence.

In reading this the chearing ideas that had enlivened his heart but a few moments before vaniſhed, and he became more diſtreſſed than ever. He was aſtoniſhed that ſuch a report ſhould be propagated, and more particularly ſo that it ſhould have reached New York. He knew not himſelf the extent of the influence which he had on the heart

of Madame de Rettelle; for although ſome of the officers had, on his meeting them at Fort St. John with the Indians, profeſſed to congratulate him on his ſucceſs in having obtained the decided preference of that lady againſt ſo many competitors, yet he paid little attention to their diſcourſe on that ſubject, and conſidered what they ſaid merely as a free and extravagant manner of converſation uſual with many of them; and for his own part he had not even thought of her but when her name was thus mentioned.

He

He travelled on full of wonder and uneaſineſs at what he had heard from the Colonel; and remembering that he had been told by an officer that to Lord Belandine's jealouſy of the love which he had for Caroline Thornton he was to attribute his commiſſion to the Outawa nation of Indians, he concluded that his Lordſhip had procured ſome perſon to obſerve his behaviour, and had invented that report upon the ground of the viſits he had paid M. de Rettelle, for the purpoſe of ſupplanting him in her affections.

Full of rage at the baſeneſs of ſuch conduct he waited on the Governor, and having executed his commiſſions, on his arrival at Quebec, would have inſtantly ſet ſail for New York to take revenge of the ſuſpected traitor, but that he could not do ſo without permiſſion from the Governor. Heir as he now was to a large fortune, he quickly reſolved to write to the Colonel, and to ſtate to him the ſituation of his heart, with the reaſons that had induced him to keep the ſecret from his friend and from all others, and informing him of the alteration

alteration in his circumſtances, ſolicit his influence with the family of Lord Thornton to be made happy with the hand of Caroline.

He loſt no time in writing on this ſubject, and added his ſuſpicions that Lord Belandine had artfully propagated the report reſpecting Madame de Rettelle for the purpoſe of promoting the intereſt of his own paſſion, and beſought the Colonel inſtantly to declare it's falſehood He at the ſame wrote to his father, made known the partiality of his

heart, and desired his approbation of its attachment.

These letters he sent off by the very first conveyance, and his disquiet became partly allayed.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXII.

EVERY thing was got ready with ſpeed for the departure of Caroline for England; and Lord Belandine, by his intereſt with the Admiral, exchanged with the Commander of a frigate which was to be ſent home with diſpatches.

Caroline by degrees grew more reſigned to her fate; and it appearing from what ſhe had heard that Courtney

Courtney had forgotten the paſſion he avowed for her, or at leaſt had overcome it in the proſpect of acquiring a great fortune with Madame de Rettelle, became careleſs of her own fate, and was reſigned to whatever her friends thought proper.

It was therefore agreed that ſhe ſhould go paſſenger in the frigate; and Mrs. Fitzjames reſolved to accompany her, for the purpoſe of diverting her thoughts, and for the more readily effecting the great object of the voyage.

All

All things being ready, the day came on which they were to go on board. The Colonel was full of regret at the neceſſity of parting with his wife and her ſiſter, and bid them adieu with a heavy heart; and Caroline, in leaving him, left the friend in whoſe tenderneſs ſhe felt the moſt conſolation and on whoſe judgment ſhe wholly relied.

In the courſe of the voyage Lord Belandine was attentive to make the time paſs agreeably away. He was now in high ſpirits from the great proſpect of ſucceſs to his plans, in finally

finally making Caroline his wife, and gloried in having ſo quickly overcome the influence which Courtney had obtained.

On their arrival in England Lord Thornton received them with expreſſions of infinite pleaſure. He aſſured Lord Belandine of the preference he gave him as his ſon in law, and ſaid that he had written to New York in anſwer to the ſecond packet of letters he had received on that ſubject, wherein he had given his entire aſſent to the plans of Mrs. Fitzjames, and had alſo

alſo written to Caroline a gentle remonſtrance on her conduct.

Of Mrs. Fitzjames his Lordſhip made enquiry, as ſoon as he had leiſure, more particularly into the cauſe of the perverſeneſs of her ſiſter in refuſing to liſten to overtures of marriage from a man of the rank of Lord Belandine. She in anſwer told him that the ſon of Sir Harry Courtney, who was involved in many pecuniary difficulties at New York, had found means to bias her ſiſter's ſentiments, and that if ſhe had not ſupported the

ſuit

ſuit of his Lordſhip with great reſolution, ſhe would have been drawn perhaps into unavoidable engagements with him that muſt have involved her in perpetual beggary.

The extenſive fortune which the Baronet had lately ſucceeded to was as yet unknown to Mrs. Fitzjames; the newſpapers which had been received at New York had not noticed it before ſhe ſailed, and having been only four days in England, ſhe had not had time for enquiries. Lord Thornton however informed her of the change that had

had ariſen in the circumſtances of Sir Harry, which muſt he ſaid render young Courtney a valuable match for the daughter of any nobleman in the kingdom.

Mrs. Fitzjames was ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at the news, and ſhe could not credit that the Captain was really heir to the immenſe fortune her father had ſtated to her, until his Lordſhip related by what death he became poſſeſſed of it, and had deſcribed in what manner Lady Harriet Soberton had herſelf inherited ſo large a property.

She

She had however taken ſo great a diſlike to Courtney that this encreaſe of fortune rather ſtimulated her deſire to haſten the marriage of Lord Belandine and her ſiſter than otherwiſe; beſides that ſtill his Lordſhip bore the higheſt rank; ſhe therefore made uſe of the ſame artful tale to Lord Thornton as had been ſo ſucceſsfully practiſed on her huſband; and added that if the match was delayed, it might poſſibly happen that Lord Belandine in a ſhort time would find other women with greater fortunes and connections,

nections, and might be induced by his ambition to alter his ſentiments.

This, though a weak argument, had influence with Lord Thornton: his family was large, his fortune not extenſive, and he was glad to embrace an opportunity of ſo well providing for his daughter.

Having thus far determined, he ſent for Caroline, and made known to her himſelf his deſire to have the marriage take place in the courſe of a fortnight. She fell on her knees, and beſought her father that

ſhe might have longer time to prepare for the change; but he ſaid that his deſire only was that ſhe might be provided for in caſe of his death, and that her marriage with Lord Belandine muſt render her happy. Her ſiſter he ſaid had made him acquainted with her attachment to Captain Courtney, whom he ſhould have been well pleaſed to receive as his ſon in law had he given her the preference to the Canadian lady, whom he was informed the Captain was on the point of being married to.

At

At theſe words ſhe burſt into tears. She thanked his Lordſhip for the tenderneſs he expreſſed, and beſought him to give her a longer time to prepare for the change ſhe was to undergo, as ſhe knew not that ſhe ſhould ſo ſoon be able to ſuſtain herſelf on the occaſion; but he left her without conſenting to the delay ſhe requeſted, ſaying that in every inſtance he ſhould purſue that line of conduct which he was ſatisfied would promote her happineſs.

CHAPTER XXIII.

SOME little after the departure of his wife and ſiſter in law for England, Colonel Fitzjames received the letter which Captain Courtney had written to him, with an avowal of his paſſion for Caroline and a declaration of the falſehood of the report of his being on the point of marriage with Madame de Rettelle.

The

The conduct of Lord Belandine appeared now in it's true light, and he ſhuddered to think of the miſery that awaited both Caroline and his friend if the intended marriage of his Lordſhip was not prevented. He traverſed the room in which he had been ſitting, full of anxiety to prevent the completion of the ſcheme; and various ways of endeavouring to do ſo preſented themſelves to his mind: no way however appeared ſo ſatisfactory to him as departing himſelf for England; but this was apparently impoſſible; the object of the army

under General Burgoyne was to form a junction with that at New York, and by that means to cut off all communication between the New England Provinces and ſuch as lay on that ſide of the north river, and the more ſouthern Provinces. It appeared therefore impoſſible to obtain leave of abſence; and to whom to write, or what to ſay to retard the marriage, he had not determined.

Courtney in his letter informed Colonel Fitzjames of his having written to his father on the ſubject; and

and he determined at length to write alſo himſelf to Sir Harry, and to ſtate to him more at large than his ſon could do the conduct of Lord Belandine, and the neceſſity of immediately applying to Lord Thornton if he wiſhed to promote the happineſs of his ſon, and to reſcue a young woman who was worthy of his affections, from falling into the ſnare that had been lain for her.

The ſhip which brought theſe letters from Canada was to wait four days before ſhe ſet ſail for Eng-

land. The Colonel therefore ſent by her letters to Sir Harry, to Lord Thornton, and to his wife, in all of which he mentioned the wicked conduct of Lord Belandine, in having impoſed the report reſpecting Courtney, and beſought Lord Thornton and his wife, as they wiſhed the happineſs of Caroline, to delay the celebration of the nuptials.

In the mean time Courtney had been ſent back to Montreal and to St. John's to ſuperintend and expedite the conveyance of ſtores to General Burgoyne, the want of which

began

began to alarm him: at the former place he was again invited to the houſe of Madame de Rettelle; but notwithſtanding the moſt preſſing meſſages from the widow, he perſiſted in his reſolution of not joining in her ſociety; his heart had received the keeneſt wound from the reports which had been fabricated from his former viſits at her houſe, and the invitations now given were as ſo many inſtruments of torment. Finding that all hopes of gaining him were vain, the young widow at length embraced the propoſals of a gentleman of family in

the

the neighbourhood, and Courtney was informed of their marriage a few days before he took his final departure from Canada.

General Carlton thought it neceſſary to ſend private advice of the critical ſituation of Burgoyne's army with the utmoſt ſpeed to England. He pitched upon Captain Courtney for this purpoſe, who accordingly prepared to embark. Before his departure he received advice from Colonel Fitzjames of the ſailing of Lord Belandine, his wife, and ſiſter in law, together with an account

account of what he had done to ſtay the marriage of his Lordſhip and Caroline.

With a perturbed and heavy heart he ſet ſail for England, on receiving the letters which the Governor gave him for the Secretary of State, and ſupported himſelf with a deſponding hope that Caroline had eſcaped the artifices of Lord Belandine, which if accompliſhed would involve both himſelf and her in unchangeable miſery.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XXIV.

EVERY thing was now prepared for celebrating the wedding of Lord Belandine and Caroline, and a ſpecial licence had been procured that they might be married at the houſe of Lord Thornton. The day was fixed, and Caroline was prepared to reſign herſelf to miſery to gratify the deſire of her father: and to prevent the poſſibility of her doubting of the faithleſs conduct of Courtney,

ney, Lord Belandine had procured the inſertion of a paragraph in two of the morning papers which were uſually taken in at Lord Thornton's, relating his marriage with Madame de Rettelle, and Mrs. Fitzjames had taken care that Caroline ſhould ſee them.

Her heart ſunk within her as ſhe read the account; the revival of ideas of him who had once aſſerted an inviolable attachment to her, and of his faithleſs conduct, ſo preyed on her ſpirits, that it brought on a fever; and ſhe was ſo weak and ill when the day arrived which was fixed on for celebrating the nuptials,

tials, as to render it abſolutely neceſſary to delay them.

Several days paſſed without the leaſt alleviation of fever, and ſhe grew ſo weak that the phyſician declared if a change did not ſoon take place ſhe muſt die under it. Lord Thornton, whoſe apprehenſions for the life of his child had overcome the deſire of eſtabliſhing her in opulence, ſaw that to promote the marriage would be to haſten her diſſolution; and while he wavered in opinion the veſſel came into port which brought the letters from Colonel

lonel Fitzjames with a full explanation of the conduct of Lord Belandine, and a propoſal of marriage from Captain Courtney.

In the courſe of two days after Sir Harry Courtney received the letters from his beloved ſon and from Colonel Fitzjames. Centered, as all his happineſs was in promoting that of the former, he haſtened without delay to the reſidence of Lord Thornton; and having ſhewn his Lordſhip the letter wherein he avowed his paſſion for Caroline, he ſaid that as he underſtood the

eſteem

eſteem was mutual, he waited on his Lordſhip to requeſt his concurrence to the union; and that to render theſe propoſals particularly deſerving his notice he would reſign immediately all the eſtates which he had lately come into poſſeſſion of by the death of Lady Harriet Soberton.

Lord Thornton readily acceded to the overtures of Sir Harry. The artful conduct of Lord Belandine to prevent an intercourſe between Captain Courtney and Caroline, had confirmed his intention of renouncing

nouncing the alliance of his Lordſhip, the idea of which had thrown her into ſo ſevere a fit of illneſs, and therefore without heſitation he gave to Sir Harry anſwers favorable to his wiſhes.

The latter was infinitely rejoiced on the occaſion; and being invited to ſtay the remainder of the day, was in the courſe of it introduced into the chamber where the object of his ſon's happineſs lay extremely ill, Lord Thornton having prepared her to ſee him by gradually relating to her the change in the affairs of Sir Harry, and

the falſehood of the reports reſpecting Captain Courtney.

The change of ſentiments in her father relieved her heart; but when ſhe found that Courtney had remained inviolable in his attachment, her agitation was ſo great that he was obliged to exert himſelf to ſave her from fainting; and having received Sir Harry, who beſtowed his prayers for her quick recovery, and expreſſed his joy in the proſpect of her union with his ſon, they left her that ſhe might obtain quiet, and ſhe in a few days was ſo conſiderably recovered as to be able to hear more fully a rela-

tion

tion of the artifices of Lord Belandine to deceive her.

That nobleman on his next viſit having been made acquainted with the change in Lord Thornton's intentions, quitted the houſe in diſguſt; and full of ſhame and indignation at finding his artifices diſcovered and defeated, to hide himſelf from reproach, he ſet out for the Continent, determined to drown reflection in riot and diſſipation.

In about a month after, the ſhip arrived which brought Captain Courtney. He inſtantly ſet off for his fa-

ther's, where he was made acquainted with the meaſures which were now purſuing to accompliſh his happineſs. He wrote inſtantly to Lord Thornton; and, accompanied by Sir Harry, the next day ſet out for the ſeat of his Lordſhip.

On meeting, Caroline and Courtney were ſo agitated as to be incapable of ſpeaking. Recovering himſelf he congratulated her on the providential eſcape they had found, and ſaid that the proof of their mutual attachment compenſated for all the pain they had ſuffered.

Every

Every preparatory had been adjuſted by Lord Thornton and Sir Harry ſince the time of their firſt meeting, and in ſix weeks after his return Courtney and the idol of his heart were united in indiſſoluble bonds.

They retired to an eſtate in Devonſhire which now belonged to Courtney, being one of thoſe which Lady Harriet had left to Sir Harry, and here they determined often to reſide, being mutually fond of a country life.

In the courſe of the year Mrs. Courtney

Courtney brought her huſband a fine boy; and the Colonel arriving ſoon after, became one of the ſponſors, congratulating them on the happy termination of their troubles.

Sir Harry, in the marriage of his ſon, having accompliſhed all that he deſired on this ſide the grave, retired to his ſeat in Suſſex, and there awaited in religious hope that diſſolution which a few years would inevitably produce.

FINIS.